

# BOROUGH OF TAMWORTH



TAMWORTH CASTLE

Annual Reports  
of  
The Medical Officer of Health  
and  
The Chief Public Health Inspector  
for the year 1970



BOROUGH OF TAMWORTH  
HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Councillor Mrs. L. Tricklebank J.P. (Chairman)  
(Resigned 16th November 1970)

Alderman T.P. Kennedy (Chairman)  
(From 16th November 1970)

Alderman R. Marriott (Vice-Chairman)

Mr. E.H. Johnson (Mayor)

Aldermen H. Hadley  
W. Mothershaw

Dr. A.J.D. Rowlands  
(Advisory Member)

Councillors Mrs. M.S. Prime  
R.C. Smith

Medical Officer of Health

Dr. C.M. David, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector

R. Burfield, M.A.P.H.I.  
Cert. Insp. Meat and Foods  
Diploma for Smoke Inspectors

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector

G.J. Watts, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.I.P.H.H.  
Cert. Insp. of Meat and Foods

Additional Public Health Inspectors

V.M. Lawton, M.A.P.H.I.  
Cert. Insp. of Meat and Foods

P. Hodges, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H

Diploma for Inspection of Meat and other Foods  
Diploma for Smoke Inspectors  
(Resigned 7th October 1970)

T. Smalley, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., M.R.I.P.H.H.  
Diploma for Air Pollution Control

J. Cavanagh, M.A.P.H.I.  
Testamur I.P.C.  
(Resigned 30th November 1970)

W. Pye, M.A.P.H.I.  
Diploma for Inspection of Meat and other Foods  
Diploma for Air Pollution Control  
(Appointed 1st April 1970)

Technical Assistants

B. Satterthwaite, M.R.S.H  
Diploma for Air Pollution Control  
B. Drake  
(Appointed 1st May 1970)

Student Public Health Inspectors

R. Waterhouse - P. Atkins

General Assistant

C. Clement

Clerical

K.B. Paul - Chief Clerk  
H. Brown - Clerical Assistant (Retired 26th April 1970)  
Mrs. D. Barker - Clerical Assistant (Appointed 1st April 1970)  
Mrs. P. Heath - Clerk/Typist

**TAMWORTH      BOROUGH      COUNCIL**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**of the**

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors  
of the Borough Council

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my statutory Annual Report on the health of the district and on the work of the Health Department for 1970, prepared in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 1/71.

It should be noted that where variation of the Borough's statistics vary from year to year or from the National figures care should be used in interpretation for these variations are related in part at least to the large variations in statistical rates which tend to occur when relatively smaller figures are dealt with.

**POPULATION**

The Registrar General's figure for the estimated mid-year home population is 39,090 compared with 37,360 in 1969.

**LIVE BIRTH RATE**

There has been a decrease of 56 in the number of live births compared with the previous year. 805 in 1970 and 861 in 1969. Further details will be found on page 8. After adjustment of the rate to allow for age and sex distribution, the adjusted figure of 19.2 can be seen to be much higher than that for England and Wales as a whole (16.0). This, of course, is due to the larger proportion of young families living in the Borough.

The proportion of illegitimate live births to total live and still births was 1 to 23 totalling 35 compared with 35 in 1969, and a National figure for 1970 of 64,744.

**STILL BIRTH RATE**

The number of still births per 1000 total births during the year was 18, compared with the National figure of 13.

**NEONATAL DEATH RATE**

The number of deaths per 1000 occurring during the first four weeks of life was 16 compared with the National figure of 12.

**INFANT MORTALITY RATE**

The number of deaths per 1000 occurring in the first twelve months of life. The rate for the Borough in 1970 was 19 compared with the National figure of 18.

## PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE

Is the combination of the number of still births and deaths within the first week of life per 1000 births, and was 32 compared with the National figure of 23.

## DEATHS

There were 364 deaths in 1970 compared with 339 the previous year. The following causes of death are of interest in relation to total deaths:-

|   | <u>1969</u> | <u>1970</u> |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| Disease of the heart and circulatory system | 152         | 143         |
| Malignant disease                           | 54          | 74          |
| Respiratory disease                         | 34          | 45          |
| Suicides                                    | 2           | 2           |
| Accidents:                                  |             |             |
| Motor vehicle                               | 7           | 6           |
| Other accidents                             | 8           | 5           |

Further details will be found on page 9.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE

During 1970 an Intensive Mass Miniature Radiography campaign was launched in the Borough, organised by this department with full co-operation from all the general practitioners in the area. The intensive advertising carried out was reflected by the gratifying public response and very worthwhile results as given below:-

|                           | <u>Total</u> | <u>Men</u> | <u>Women</u> |
|---------------------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| Number of persons x-rayed | 3388         | 1564       | 1824         |

### Significant Abnormalities Discovered:

|                              |    |   |   |
|------------------------------|----|---|---|
| Active Tuberculosis          | 1  | 1 | - |
| Quiescent Tuberculosis       | 5  | 3 | 2 |
| Carcinoma of Bronchus        | 2  | 1 | 1 |
| Sarcoidosis                  | 3  | 2 | 1 |
| Heart Defects:               |    |   |   |
| (a) Congenital atrial septal | 1  | - | 1 |
| (b) Acquired                 | 13 | 5 | 8 |
| Pneumoconiosis               | 6  | 6 | - |
| Bronchiectasis               | 1  | 1 | - |
| Emphysema                    | 9  | 6 | 3 |
| Abnormalities of Diaphragm   | 3  | - | 3 |

## WATER SUPPLY

The Borough's water supply is obtained via four pumping stations from The South Staffordshire Waterworks Co., and is derived from both surface and underground sources. Regular and frequent samples for bacteriological and chemical analysis are taken of both raw and chlorinated water. During 1970 519 samples of the treated water were examined, 517 of which were free from coliform bacteria.

241 out of 242 samples of borehole water prior to treatment were free from coliform bacteria. The water supply to the area has been satisfactory in quality and quantity and the naturally occurring fluoride content has varied between 0.03 and 0.3 parts per million.

In cases of possible contamination such as bursts or damaged mains, emptying reservoirs etc. emergency chlorination is performed, special apparatus and staff being available for this work. New mains etc. are not brought into use until the water has been examined and proved satisfactory.

At 31st December 1970, 13,251 houses were supplied in the Borough direct from the Company's Distribution System, the estimated population being 2.9 persons per house.

Samples were obtained within the Borough from Glascote Reservoir, Glascote Re-Pumping Station, Two Gates Re-Pumping Station and Tamworth Gas Works.

In each case where supply water showed any evidence of bacteriological characteristics slightly differing from normal, repeat samples were always promptly obtained. Where traces of contamination have been detected, further sampling, following corrective action where necessary, has resulted in rapid restoration of entirely satisfactory results.

The average chemical results of the samples from Tamworth Gas Works for 1970 were:-

|                                 |      |                   |   |
|---------------------------------|------|-------------------|---|
| pH                              | 7.4  |                   |   |
| Alkalinity (CaCO <sub>3</sub> ) | 141  | parts per million |   |
| Chlorides (Cl)                  | 32.2 | "                 | " |
| Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N)         | .014 | "                 | " |
| Albuminoid Nitrogen (N)         | .069 | "                 | " |
| Oxidised Nitrogen (N)           | 6.4  | "                 | " |
| Oxygen Absorbed (3 hr at 27°C)  | .78  | "                 | " |
| Temporary Hardness              | 141  |                   |   |
| Permanent Hardness              | 123  | "                 | " |
| Total Hardness                  | 264  | "                 | " |
| Iron (Fe)                       | .02  | "                 | " |
| Manganese (Mn)                  | Nil  | "                 | " |
| Zinc (Zn)                       | Nil  | "                 | " |
| Copper (Cu)                     | .32  | "                 | " |
| Lead (Pb)                       | Nil  | "                 | " |
| Free Cl                         | Nil  | "                 |   |

The waters are not liable to plumbo-solvency

## SEWAGE

As early as 1954 it was apparent that the existing sewage treatment facilities were inadequate and a scheme was prepared for works extensions. Various delays occurred and although other schemes were prepared in 1961 and 1963 it was not possible to produce a satisfactory scheme until after the boundary extension came into effect in 1965. Eventually a scheme was approved by the Ministry in 1966 and construction started a year later.

1970 has been a year which has seen good progress on many of the works detailed in last year's annual report and nearly all of these will be completed in 1971.

During 1970 sewage treatment has continued at the three main works at Coton Lane, Amington and Dosthill and at the temporary Pasveer Ditch works at Belgrave. Only the Pasveer Ditch has been able to produce a consistently good effluent, the other three works being very old and heavily overloaded. The flow to each works is shown below:-

|               | <u>Annual Flow</u> | <u>Average<br/>Daily Flow</u> |
|---------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Coton Lane    | 535.5 mg.          | 1.467 mg.                     |
| Amington      | 28.2 mg.           | 0.077 mg.                     |
| Dosthill      | 35.2 mg.           | 0.096 mg.                     |
| Pasveer Ditch | 58.8 mg.           | 0.161 mg.                     |
|               | <hr/>              | <hr/>                         |
| Total         | 657.7 mg.          | 1.801 mg.                     |
|               | <hr/>              | <hr/>                         |

It is intended to abandon the old Coton Lane works in Spring 1971 when part of Phase I of the new works will become operational. Both Amington and Dosthill works will remain until Phase I of the new sewage works is complete which will probably be about September 1971.

The new pumping station at Lichfield Road is virtually complete and should be fully operational in May 1971. The old station will then close, after over sixty years of service.

Many of the new sewers laid during the year will be brought into use in the Spring of 1971 and the new pumping station at Dosthill will probably be commissioned about August 1971.

Thus by the end of 1971 the new sewerage system, pumping stations and the first phase of the new Coton Lane Treatment Works will be in operation capable of giving full treatment to industrial and domestic waste from a population of 46,500 people.

Negotiations are already in hand to appoint a contractor for construction of Phase II of the new works. It is hoped that construction of Phase II will start in the Summer of 1971 and when complete the works will be capable of treating flows from a population of 97,000.

In addition a laboratory is being built at the new works. In the past sewage analysis has been done by Consultant Chemists. This is very expensive and consequently the amount of analysis has been kept to a minimum. The new laboratory will not only enable the Sewage Works Chemist/Manager to perform regular analysis of the sewage works effluent but also enable him to exercise greater control over the discharge of toxic trade effluents. This is essential to safeguard the works and protect the river system.

SECTION    A

**GENERAL STATISTICS**

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Area in Acres  | 7, 647       |
| Registrar General's estimate of resident population            | 39, 090      |
| Number of Inhabited Houses (April 1970) according to Rate Book | 12, 242      |
| Persons per Acre   | 5. 1         |
| Rateable Value - April 1970                                    | £1, 434, 413 |
| Product of 1d. Rate Estimated 1970/71                          | £6, 300      |

**VITAL STATISTICS**

|   | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|---|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Live Births   | 414         | 391           | 805          |
| Live Births, rate per 1, 000 population                                       | 20. 6       |               | .            |
| Adjusted birthrate (comparability factor . 93)                                | 19. 2       |               | ..           |
| Birthrate (England and Wales)   | 16. 0       |               |              |
| Illegitimate live births per cent of<br>total live births (England and Wales) | 8. 0        |               |              |
| Illegitimate live births per cent of<br>total live births                     | 4. 0        |               |              |

**NOTE ON ADJUSTED BIRTHRATE**

Local birthrates are usually expressed in terms of population. These populations are estimated by the Registrar General and comprise persons of all ages, including many who quite obviously have no influence on the reproductive process. These latter do, however, affect the birthrate in that a preponderance of them in the population of an area tends to lower and a small proportion of them to raise, the true rate. Considerable variation in the size of this proportion exists in different areas, and it is therefore apparent that the elimination or standardisation of such a factor enables a truer comparison between areas.

As a result of this the Registrar General issues yearly, for each area, a comparability factor, for use with birth and death rates. The adjusted rates resulting from the multiplication of the crude rate of the area by this comparability factor produces a figure which can then be compared with that of any other area or with the country as a whole.

**STILLBIRTHS**

|              | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Legitimate   | 5           | 8             | 13           |
| Illegitimate | -           | 2             | 2            |
|              | —           | —             | —            |
| Total        | 5           | 10            | 15           |
|              | ==          | ==            | ==           |

| TOTAL LIVE AND STILLBIRTHS |              | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|----------------------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
|                            |              | 419         | 401           | 820          |
|                            | Legitimate   | 398         | 387           | 785          |
|                            | Illegitimate | 21          | 14            | 35           |

**STILLBIRTH RATE** (per 1,000 live and stillbirths) 18

**INFANT DEATHS** (Deaths under one year)

|              |   |   |    |
|--------------|---|---|----|
| Legitimate   | 6 | 9 | 15 |
| Illegitimate | - | - | -  |
|              | - | - | -  |
| Total        | 6 | 9 | 15 |
|              | = | = | =  |

**EARLY NEONATAL DEATHS** (Deaths 0 - 1 week)

|              |   |   |    |
|--------------|---|---|----|
| Legitimate   | 6 | 5 | 11 |
| Illegitimate | - | - | -  |
|              | - | - | -  |
| Total        | 6 | 5 | 11 |
|              | = | = | =  |

**NEONATAL DEATHS** (Deaths 1 - 4 weeks)

|              |   |   |    |
|--------------|---|---|----|
| Legitimate   | 6 | 7 | 13 |
| Illegitimate | - | - | -  |
|              | - | - | -  |
| Total        | 6 | 7 | 13 |
|              | = | = | =  |

**INFANT MORTALITY RATE** (Deaths 0-1 year per 1,000 live births)

|              |                        |
|--------------|------------------------|
| Legitimate   | 19 (Males and Females) |
| Illegitimate | - (Males and Females)  |

**EARLY NEONATAL DEATH RATE**

(Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births) 14

**NEONATAL MORTALITY RATE**

(Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births) 16

**PERINATAL DEATH RATE**

(Stillbirths plus infants dying at less than one week per 1,000 live and stillbirths) 32

The following Table shows how the Borough figures, after being adjusted by the Registrar General's Local Comparability Factor, compare with those for England and Wales for 1970:-

|  | <u>Tamworth<br/>M.B.</u> | <u>England and<br/>Wales</u> |
|--|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>LIVE BIRTH RATE:</b>  | 19.2                     | 16.0                         |
| (Ratio of local adjusted rate to national rate)                    | 1.20                     | 1.00                         |
| (Illegitimate live births as <u>percentage</u> of all live births) | 4                        | 8                            |
| <b>STILL BIRTH RATE:</b>   | 18                       | 13                           |
| <b>PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE:</b>                                   | 32                       | 23                           |
| <b>NEONATAL MORTALITY RATE:</b>                                    | 16                       | 12                           |
| <b>INFANT MORTALITY RATE:</b>                                      | 19                       | 18                           |
| <b>DEATH RATE - ALL AGES:</b>                                      | 11.1                     | 11.7                         |
| (Ratio of local adjusted rate to national rate)                    | .95                      | 1.00                         |

The following Table shows how the figures for 1969 compare with those for immediately preceding years:-

| Year  | Estimated Population | Live Birth Rate per 1000 Home popln. | Still Birth Rate | Neonatal Death Rate (Deaths under 4 wks) | Infant Death Rate | Perinatal Mortality | Death Rate (All Ages) |
|---|----------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|--|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1965*   | 32,030               | 22.3                                 | 13.8             | 11.2                                     | 14                | 22.1                | 8.5                   |
| 1966  | 33,200               | 24.2                                 | 20.8             | 15.                                      | 20                | 34.2                | 10.5                  |
| 1967  | 34,600               | 25.1                                 | 20.              | 7.                                       | 8                 | 28.                 | 8.8                   |
| 1968  | 35,970               | 23.4                                 | 12.              | 7.                                       | 14                | 18.                 | 9.0                   |
| 1969  | 37,360               | 23.0                                 | 14.              | 7.                                       | 15                | 17.                 | 9.1                   |
| 1970  | 39,090               | 20.6                                 | 18.              | 16.                                      | 19                | 32.                 | 9.3                   |
| *Borough expanded by inclusion of Tamworth Rural District |                      |                                      |                  |  |                   |                     |                       |

# DEATH FROM ALL CAUSES

|   |      | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|---|------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
|   |      | 204         | 160           | 364          |
| Death Rate (per 1,000 population)               | 9.3  |             |               |              |
| Adjusted death rate (comparability factor 1.19) | 11.1 |             |               |              |

NOTE: This comparability factor is obtained and used on a similar principle to that for comparability for births

Death Rate (England and Wales) 11.7

| Causes of Death                    | Sex | 1970 | 1969 | 1968 | 1967 | 1966 |
|------------------------------------|-----|------|------|------|------|------|
| Malignant neoplasm, stomach        | M   | 7    | 8    | 5    | 7    | 6    |
|                                    | F   | 3    | 4    | 3    | 4    | 4    |
| Malignant neoplasm, intestine      | M   | 3    | 3    | -    | -    | -    |
|                                    | F   | 2    | 2    | -    | -    | -    |
| Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus | M   | 16   | 16   | 13   | 10   | 8    |
|                                    | F   | 2    | 2    | 1    | 1    | 1    |
| Malignant neoplasm, larynx         | M   | 1    | -    | -    | -    | -    |
| Malignant neoplasm, breast         | F   | 8    | 6    | 8    | 5    | 7    |
| Malignant neoplasm, uterus         | F   | 7    | 1    | 1    | -    | 5    |
| Malignant neoplasm, prostate       | M   | 2    | 2    | -    | -    | -    |
| Leukaemia                          | M   | 1    | 1    | -    | -    | 3    |
|                                    | F   | 3    | -    | -    | -    | -    |
| Other malignant neoplasms          | M   | 11   | 5    | 13   | 14   | 13   |
|                                    | F   | 8    | 4    | 8    | 16   | 13   |
| Benign and unspecified neoplasms   | M   | 1    | 1    | 1    | -    | -    |
|                                    | F   | -    | -    | -    | -    | -    |
| Diabetes                           | M   | 2    | 1    | 3    | -    | -    |
|                                    | F   | -    | 2    | 3    | 1    | 3    |
| Anaemias                           | M   | -    | -    | 1    | -    | -    |
|                                    | F   | 2    | 1    | 2    | -    | -    |
| Chronic rheumatic heart disease    | M   | 3    | 3    | 2    | -    | -    |
|                                    | F   | 2    | 2    | 5    | -    | -    |
| Hypertensive disease               | M   | 6    | 5    | 2    | 3    | 3    |
|                                    | F   | 2    | 7    | 2    | 3    | 4    |
| Ischaemic heart disease            | M   | 61   | 57   | 49   | 44   | 47   |
|                                    | F   | 39   | 30   | 29   | 26   | 18   |
| Other forms of heart disease       | M   | 6    | 6    | 7    | 7    | 13   |
|                                    | F   | 7    | 7    | 9    | 11   | 21   |

(Continued)

| Causes of Death                      | Sex | 1970 | 1969 | 1968 | 1967 | 1966 |
|--------------------------------------|-----|------|------|------|------|------|
| Cerebrovascular disease              | M   | 25   | 22   | 23   | 25   | 18   |
|                                      | F   | 32   | 19   | 26   | 35   | 24   |
| Other diseases of nervous system     | M   | 1    | 2    | 1    | -    | -    |
|                                      | F   | 2    | 3    | 1    | -    | -    |
| Other diseases of circulatory system | M   | 9    | 12   | 13   | 17   | 10   |
|                                      | F   | 8    | 23   | 19   | 14   | 29   |
| Influenza                            | M   | -    | 3    | 1    | -    | -    |
|                                      | F   | 2    | 2    | -    | -    | 1    |
| Pneumonia                            | M   | 8    | 4    | 8    | 4    | 6    |
|                                      | F   | 7    | 10   | 3    | 4    | 18   |
| Bronchitis and emphysema             | M   | 15   | 12   | 12   | 9    | 18   |
|                                      | F   | 6    | 1    | 4    | 3    | 5    |
| Asthma                               | M   | 1    | 1    | -    | -    | -    |
|                                      | F   | 1    | -    | -    | -    | -    |
| Other diseases of respiratory system | M   | 4    | 1    | 2    | 1    | 2    |
|                                      | F   | 1    | -    | 2    | 1    | -    |
| Peptic ulcer                         | M   | 2    | 1    | -    | 2    | 2    |
|                                      | F   | -    | -    | 1    | -    | 2    |
| Intestinal obstruction and hernia    | M   | 1    | -    | 1    | -    | -    |
|                                      | F   | -    | 2    | 1    | -    | -    |
| Other diseases of digestive system   | M   | 1    | 2    | 3    | -    | -    |
|                                      | F   | 2    | 1    | -    | -    | -    |
| Hyperplasia of prostate              | M   | 2    | 2    | 2    | 1    | 4    |
| Diseases of musculo-skeletal system  | M   | -    | 2    | -    | -    | -    |
|                                      | F   | 1    | 2    | 3    | -    | -    |
| Congenital anomalies                 | M   | -    | 2    | 4    | -    | 2    |
|                                      | F   | 2    | 2    | 1    | 2    | 1    |
| Birth injury, difficult labour etc.  | M   | 2    | 1    | 1    | -    | -    |
|                                      | F   | 2    | -    | 1    | -    | 1    |
| Other causes of perinatal mortality  | M   | 4    | -    | 2    | -    | -    |
|                                      | F   | 1    | 2    | 1    | 1    | -    |
| Symptoms and ill defined conditions  | M   | 1    | 3    | -    | 11   | 7    |
|                                      | F   | 3    | 1    | 4    | 6    | 12   |
| Motor vehicle accidents              | M   | 5    | 6    | 2    | 4    | 10   |
|                                      | F   | 1    | 1    | 2    | 1    | 2    |
| All other accidents                  | M   | 2    | 6    | 3    | 4    | 3    |
|                                      | F   | 3    | 2    | 1    | -    | 1    |
| Suicide and self-inflicted injuries  | M   | 1    | 1    | 5    | -    | 1    |
|                                      | F   | 1    | 1    | -    | -    | -    |
| Other diseases unclassified          | M   | -    | 3    | 3    | 6    | 2    |
|                                      | F   | -    | 5    | 1    | 1    | -    |
| TOTAL ALL CAUSES                     | M   | 204  | 194  | 179  | 169  | 178  |
|                                      | F   | 160  | 145  | 145  | 135  | 178  |

## **GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES**

The Borough Council is the Sanitary Authority responsible for the environmental services. It has no major responsibilities under the National Health Service Act 1946 and the County Council is the local health authority. As such it is responsible for the following services:-

Maternity and Child Welfare, Domiciliary Midwifery, Vaccination and Immunisation, Ambulance Service, Health Visiting, Administration of the Mental Health Services, "care and after care" and the provision of the Home Nursing and "Home Helps". Section 21 of the Act imposes on the County Council the duty of providing Health Centres.

In pursuance of these responsibilities the County Council brought the following facilities to the inhabitants of the Borough:-

### **1. Ambulance Service (Section 27)**

There are three ambulances and two sitting case cars with a staff of 15 based at the local ambulance station, which is now operating 8 a.m. to midnight on 7 days per week. For calls outside these hours ambulances are supplied from other County stations.

### **2. Maternity, Home Nursing and Domestic Help Services (Sections 23, 25 and 29)**

The services outlined here operate also in the rural areas in the immediate vicinity of Tamworth and not only the Borough.

There are 6 County Council midwives - full time. Tamworth area also has 4 full time District Nurses and 2 part time and 66 Domestic Helps working approximately 20 hours each per week and providing a service for 302 cases. i. e. approximately  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hours each case.

The County Council is also responsible for other special health services - Maternity and Child Welfare and the School Health Service. There are 5 Health Visitors assisted by 2 school clinic nurses available for ante-natal and child health work and during the year attachment of the Health Visitors to family practitioners has been arranged. Under the direction of Dr. MacLachlan, Chest Physician, a Health Visitor who specializes in T.B. is employed.

There are 8 Child Health Clinics in the Borough providing facilities for Infant Welfare, School Health, Speech Therapy, Chiropody, Cervical Cytology, Ante-Natal, E.N.T., and Ophthalmic Care. In addition facilities are provided for the Family Planning Association to hold clinics.

# IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATIONS OF CHILDREN

|  | BORN IN        |                |                |                  |               |                                |                   |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
|  | 1970           | 1969           | 1968           | 1967             | 1963-66       | Others under<br>16 yrs. of age |                   |
| <u>Diphtheria Immunisation</u>   |                |                |                |                  |               |                                |                   |
| (a) No. of children who received<br>a primary course of protection<br>either singly or in combina-<br>tion in 1970 | 131            | 466            | 88             | 11               | 26            | 2                              |                   |
| (b) No. of children who received<br>a reinforcing injection in 1970  | -              | -              | 61             | 21               | 618           | 85                             |                   |
| <u>Whooping Cough Immunisation</u>   |                |                |                |                  |               |                                |                   |
| (a) No. of children who received<br>primary course of protection,<br>either singly or in combina-<br>tion in 1970  | 120            | 412            | 86             | 5                | 3             | -                              |                   |
| (b) No. of children who received<br>a reinforcing injection in 1970  | -              | -              | -              | -                | -             | -                              |                   |
| <u>Tetanus Inoculation</u>   |                |                |                |                  |               |                                |                   |
| (a) No. of children who received<br>primary course of protection,<br>either singly or in combina-<br>tion in 1970  | 131            | 466            | 88             | 12               | 29            | 3                              |                   |
| (b) No. of children who received<br>a reinforcing injection in 1970  | -              | -              | 61             | 21               | 619           | 90                             |                   |
| <u>Poliomyelitis Vaccination</u>   |                |                |                |                  |               |                                |                   |
| (a) Primary  | 131            | 464            | 158            | 21               | 34            | -                              |                   |
| (b) Reinforcing  | -              | -              | 66             | 25               | 635           | 87                             |                   |
| (all oral type vaccine)  |                |                |                |                  |               |                                |                   |
| Measles Vaccination  | 14             | 121            | 181            | 118              | 164           | 4                              |                   |
| <u>Smallpox Vaccination</u>  |                |                |                |                  |               |                                |                   |
|  | <u>0-3mths</u> | <u>4-6mths</u> | <u>7-9mths</u> | <u>10-12mths</u> | <u>1 year</u> | <u>2-4 years</u>               | <u>5-15 years</u> |
|  | 3              | -              | 1              | -                | 166           | 239                            | 12                |
| Revaccination -  | -              | -              | -              | -                | -             | 6                              | 13                |

## **LABORATORY FACILITIES (Section 26)**

Tamworth is served by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Stafford. This is directed by the Ministry of Health as a component of a free national laboratory service for England and Wales. The work of the laboratory is designed to assist the Medical Officer of Health and the general practitioners in the diagnosis, prevention and control of communicable diseases. Its activities include the examination of throat and nose swabs, sputum, blood and excreta of human origin as aids to diagnosis of suspected or actual infectious diseases. Its sanitary work includes mainly the bacteriological examination of drinking water, the testing of sampled milk for cleanliness and for the presence of tubercle bacillic and other pathogenic organisms, and the bacteriological testing of food samples, ice cream, synthetic cream, and shell-fish as distributed to the consumer. Its staff is available to participate in the investigation of outbreaks of infectious disease in the area which it serves, with the general aim of preventing or controlling disease.

## SECTION C

### INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The following Table I shows the number of cases of infectious diseases other than Tuberculosis notified during the year and also the number of cases of each disease notified during the preceding five years, while Table II shows the number of cases of Tuberculosis notified and deaths during 1970 together with notifications and mortality for the preceding five years.

The small number of cases of Whooping Cough reflects the successful use of immunisation of infants. It is likely that the present increasing use of measles vaccine will bring about a similar marked decrease in the incidence of naturally occurring measles.

**TABLE I - NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS**

|                                       | <u>1965</u> | <u>1966</u> | <u>1967</u> | <u>1968</u> | <u>1969</u> | <u>1970</u> |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Smallpox                              | -           | -           | -           | -           | -           | -           |
| Scarlet Fever                         | 3           | 18          | 3           | 4           | 10          | 4           |
| Diphtheria                            | -           | -           | -           | -           | -           | -           |
| Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) | -           | -           | -           | -           | 2           | -           |
| Puerperal Fever                       | -           | -           | -           | -           | -           | -           |
| Pneumonia                             | 1           | -           | 1           | -           | -           | -           |
| Erysipelas                            | 2           | -           | -           | -           | -           | -           |
| Encephalitis Lethargica               | -           | -           | -           | 3           | -           | -           |
| Encephalitis (acute) Infective        | -           | -           | -           | 3           | -           | -           |
| Encephalitis (acute) Post Infections  | -           | -           | -           | 1           | -           | -           |
| Cerebro-spinal Fever                  | -           | -           | -           | -           | -           | -           |
| Acute Poliomyelitis                   | -           | -           | -           | -           | -           | -           |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum                 | -           | -           | -           | -           | -           | -           |
| Whooping Cough                        | 1           | 5           | 2           | 1           | 1           | 7           |
| Measles                               | 134         | 15          | 234         | 106         | 5           | 107         |
| Meningococcal Infection               | -           | -           | -           | -           | -           | -           |
| Food Poisoning                        | -           | -           | -           | -           | -           | -           |
| Dysentery                             | 1           | -           | 3           | 1           | 2           | 3           |
| Infective Jaundice                    | -           | -           | -           | -           | -           | 2           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                          | <b>142</b>  | <b>38</b>   | <b>243</b>  | <b>119</b>  | <b>20</b>   | <b>123</b>  |

TABLE II - TUBERCULOSIS NEW CASES AND MORTALITY

| Year | NEW CASES |   |               |   | DEATHS    |   |               |   |
|------|-----------|---|---------------|---|-----------|---|---------------|---|
|      | Pulmonary |   | Non Pulmonary |   | Pulmonary |   | Non Pulmonary |   |
|      | M         | F | M             | F | M         | F | M             | F |
| 1970 | -         | 3 | 1             | - | -         | - | -             | - |
| 1969 | 6         | 5 | -             | 1 | 1         | - | -             | - |
| 1968 | 8         | 1 | -             | 1 | 2         | - | -             | - |
| 1967 | 2         | 4 | 1             | 1 | -         | - | 1             | - |
| 1966 | 9         | 5 | 1             | - | -         | - | -             | - |
| 1965 | 1         | 5 | -             | - | -         | - | -             | - |

## TUBERCULOSIS INCIDENCE

Notified Cases in Tamworth M.B.

|      |        | <u>No. of New Cases</u>           | <u>Rate/1,000</u> |
|------|--------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1968 | 35,970 | 11 (excluding 1 inward transfer)  | 0.305             |
| 1969 | 37,360 | 10 (excluding 8 inward transfers) | 0.267             |
| 1970 | 39,090 | 4 (excluding 2 inward transfers)  | 0.103             |

Comparable Size AreasStafford Borough:

|      |        |   |      |
|------|--------|---|------|
| 1970 | 54,740 | 7 | 0.13 |
|------|--------|---|------|

Seisdon Rural:

|      |        |   |      |
|------|--------|---|------|
| 1970 | 39,470 | 7 | 0.18 |
|------|--------|---|------|

County Case Rate:

|      |      |
|------|------|
| 1968 | 0.10 |
| 1969 | 0.10 |
| 1970 | 0.10 |

ANNUAL     REPORT  
  
of  
  
THE   CHIEF   PUBLIC   HEALTH   INSPECTOR  
  
To the Chairman and Members of the Health and  
Safety Committee

Mr. Mayor, Mr. Chairman, Aldermen and Members,

I present my report on the work done by the Department during 1970. Staff expansion permitted attention to some previously neglected aspects of environmental health but two inspectors left for promotion and we were unable to fill the vacancies, so towards the end of the year found ourselves running hard to stay in the same place at times.

**1. FOOD AND DRUGS**

(a) Meat Inspection

Consequent partly upon the closing-down of one slaughterhouse there was a decline in the number of animals slaughtered from 16,027 to 14,744, but this had a very marginal effect upon the inspectors time.

Once again tuberculosis was found in pigs only, usually localised in the submaxillary lymph nodes and easily detected. Localised cysticercus bovis was found in five bovine carcasses and was dealt with by condemnation of the affected part, the remaining parts of the carcase and offal being refrigerated at the prescribed temperature in order to destroy any concealed parasites.

The table overleaf gives details of all animals killed in the slaughterhouses during 1970.

| Carcases Inspected<br>and condemned                        | Cattle<br>excluding<br>cows | Cows | Calves | Sheep<br>and<br>Lambs | Pigs |
|--|-----------------------------|------|--------|-----------------------|------|
| Number killed and inspected                                | 1946                        | 11   | 15     | 6169                  | 6603 |
| <u>All diseases except Tuberculosis<br/>and Cysticerci</u> |                             |      |        |                       |      |
| Whole carcasses condemned                                  | 1                           | -    | -      | 2                     | 4    |
| Carcases of which some part or<br>organ was condemned      | 233                         | 3    | -      | 133                   | 500  |
| <u>Tuberculosis only</u>                                   |                             |      |        |                       |      |
| Whole carcasses condemned                                  | -                           | -    | -      | -                     | -    |
| Carcases of which some part or<br>organ was condemned      | -                           | -    | -      | -                     | 45   |
| <u>Cysticerci</u>  |                             |      |        |                       |      |
| Carcases of which some part or<br>organ was condemned      | 5                           | -    | -      | -                     | -    |
| Carcases submitted to refrigeration                        | 5                           | -    | -      | -                     | -    |
| Generalised and totally condemned                          | -                           | -    | -      | -                     | -    |

(b) Unsound Food Surrendered or Condemned

|                                       | Tons | Cwts. | lbs. |
|---------------------------------------|------|-------|------|
| (1) Meat                              |      |       |      |
| (a) Slaughterhouses                   |      |       |      |
| (i) carcass meat                      | -    | 12    | 31   |
| (ii) offal                            | 3    | 4     | 46   |
| (b) Retail shops                      |      |       |      |
| (i) carcass meat                      | 1    | 10    | 51   |
| (ii) offal                            | -    | -     | 14   |
| (2) Cooked meat and meat products     | -    | -     | 100  |
| (3) Other canned foods                | 2    | 7     | 10   |
| (4) Fish (fresh)                      | -    | -     | 24   |
| (5) Frozen Foods - freezer breakdowns | -    | 4     | 11   |
| (6) Other foods                       | -    | 2     | 64   |
|                                       | 8    | 2     | 15   |

(c) List of Food Premises

|      |   |     |
|------|---|-----|
| (1)  | Butchers, Cooked Meat Shops and Manufacturing premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955 | 31  |
| (2)  | Premises registered for manufacture, storage and sale of Ice Cream  | 114 |
| (3)  | Premises registered for Milk Distribution   | 49  |
| (4)  | Fish Friers   | 17  |
| (5)  | Fishmongers   | 4   |
| (6)  | Greengrocers  | 16  |
| (7)  | Hotels  | 2   |
| (8)  | Cafes/Restaurants   | 16  |
| (9)  | Factory Canteens  | 34  |
| (10) | Public Houses and other Licensed Premises   | 35  |
| (11) | Clubs   | 14  |
| (12) | Food Manufacturers  | 18  |
| (13) | Wholesale Shops/Warehouses  | 11  |
| (14) | Mobile Vendors  | 10  |
| (15) | General Grocers   | 65  |

(d) Food Hygiene Regulations - Analysis of Contraventions

| Items   | Contraventions<br>Noted | Remedied |
|---|-------------------------|----------|
| No soap, towels, nailbrushes to wash hand basin   | 44                      | 31       |
| Wash hand basins required   | 52                      | 38       |
| Water closets and wash hand basin not conveniently accessible to the staff                  | 4                       | 1        |
| Lack of hot water supply to sink and wash hand basin  | 86                      | 56       |
| Lack of cold water supply to sinks  | 5                       | -        |
| Defective sinks   | 7                       | 5        |
| No sink for equipment washing, etc.   | 32                      | 22       |
| Dirty water closet compartment  | 16                      | 16       |
| "Wash-hands" notice to water closet compartment not displayed                               | 32                      | 29       |
| Lack of or inadequate ventilation   | 20                      | 13       |
| No intervening ventilated space between water closet compartment and food preparation rooms | 7                       | 5        |

(Continued)

| Items   | Contraventions<br>Noted | Remedied |
|---|-------------------------|----------|
| Insufficient lighting   | 32                      | 19       |
| Walls - dirty and defective   | 113                     | 94       |
| Ceilings - dirty and defective  | 97                      | 69       |
| Floors needing repair   | 96                      | 61       |
| Yard requires resurfacing   | 1                       | 1        |
| Rooms requiring cleansing and redecorating  | 25                      | 13       |
| Sterilant not used for glass washing  | 3                       | 2        |
| Spashbacks to sink behind bars dirty and need replacing   | 1                       | -        |
| Internal paintwork of refrigerator peeling  | 11                      | 7        |
| Smoking in food room  | 1                       | -        |
| Food preparation working surfaces in need of resurfacing  | 57                      | 46       |
| Food stored in water closet lobby   | -                       | 1        |
| Fly --proofing required   | 4                       | 2        |
| Live animals in food preparation rooms  | 2                       | 2        |
| Incorrect storage of frozen food  | 1                       | 1        |
| Foodstuffs open to contamination  | 31                      | 21       |
| Congeaed fat or oil under range and on outer surfaces of range  | 1                       | 1        |
| Accumulations of refuse   | 25                      | 18       |
| No proper containers with lid for waste food disposal   | 9                       | 4        |
| No lids to refuse bins  | 11                      | 9        |
| Dirty equipment   | 27                      | 23       |
| Damaged equipment   | 3                       | 2        |
| Hock boiler and pickler not adequately housed   | 1                       | 1        |
| Beer drop (area around head of drop requires levelling and means taken to prevent dirt and debris being washed into cellar) | 2                       | -        |
| Beer drop - ill fitting doors and frame at head   | 6                       | 5        |
| Cellar head requires scraping and re-decorating   | 1                       | 1        |
| No suitable accommodation for clothing  | 14                      | 10       |
| No protective clothing (overalls etc.)  | 2                       | 1        |
| No means of drainage in cellar, causing flooding  | 2                       | 1        |

(Continued)

| Items   | Contraventions<br>Noted | Remedied |
|---|-------------------------|----------|
| Inefficient pump and sump in cellar, causing flooding                       | -                       | 1        |
| Defective drains and gullies  | 5                       | 2        |
| Inspection chambers not secured (risk of food contamination)                | 2                       | 1        |
| Water closet pedestal to be removed and access to drain properly sealed off | 1                       | -        |
| Name and address of vendor not shown on vehicle                             | 14                      | 5        |
| Dirty condition of vehicles   | 26                      | 12       |
| Insufficient or no first aid materials                                      | 44                      | 35       |

(e) Bacteriological Ice- Cream Sampling

16 samples were taken during the year and all were satisfactory.

(f) Food Complaints

55 complaints were received compared with 16 for 1969. The increase may be due to the publicity consequent upon the opening of the Health and Safety Committee to press and public. Even so, this figure must be the tip of the ice-berg only.

Court proceedings were taken in these instances:-

| <u>Description of Offence</u>          | <u>Statute Contravened</u>  | <u>Penalty</u> |
|--|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Cigarette end in stuffing mix          | Sec. 2 - Food and Drugs Act | £20            |
| Glass in instant coffee mix            | Sec. 2 - Food and Drugs Act | £20            |
| String in biscuits                     | Sec. 2 - Food and Drugs Act | £10            |
| Unfit pork chop                        | Sec. 8 - Food and Drugs Act | £30            |
| Tin of peas containing beetle          | Sec. 2 - Food and Drugs Act | £25            |
| Mineral water contaminated by paraffin | Sec. 8 - Food and Drugs Act | £10            |
| Mouldy savoury ducks                   | Sec. 8 - Food and Drugs Act | £20            |
| Maggot in biscuits                     | Sec. 2 - Food and Drugs Act | £10            |
| Cobwebs in stuffing mix                | Sec. 2 - Food and Drugs Act | £20            |
| Glass in milk (2)                      | Sec. 2 - Food and Drugs Act | £10            |
| Water in tinned cream                  | Sec. 2 - Food and Drugs Act | £20            |
| Mouldy chestnuts                       | Sec. 2 - Food and Drugs Act | £20            |

In the remaining 43 instances the processes of production, storage and delivery were closely examined to see where the fault lay.

We found that one fairly large national food manufacturer did not have a hygiene controller, an omission later rectified. Imperfect seals on cheese spread wrapped in foil cropped up several times and there was the usual selection of mouldy foods of all kinds; pies, tarts, cheeses, bread, tinned tomatoes. They were mostly mass-produced foods.

Usually the manufacturers are very concerned about what goes on in their factories but delivery and storage en-route to the retailer is very often a hazardous business with a fair amount of buck-passing. We found one instance where meat pies made in London came to a Birmingham depot whence they were passed on to a sub-depot and then to a mobile roundsman, the whole of which constituted a fairly determined effort to make somebody ill.

## 2. HOUSING ACTS

### (a) Improvement Grants

#### Standard Grants

1. Applications received

Applications approved

Applications refused

2. No. of dwellings improved

| Owner/<br>Occupier |      | Tenanted |      | Total |      |
|--------------------|------|----------|------|-------|------|
| 1969               | 1970 | 1969     | 1970 | 1969  | 1970 |
| 36                 | 36   | 30       | 42   | 66    | 78   |
| 34                 | 36   | 13       | 23   | 47    | 59   |
| -                  | -    | 1        | -    | 1     | -    |
| 28                 | 19   | 33       | 17   | 61    | 36   |

3. Amount paid in grants

4. Average grant per dwelling

5. Number of amenities provided:

| <u>1969</u>     | <u>1970</u> |
|-----------------|-------------|
| £10,051. 8s.9d. | £5,404      |
| 161. 0s.0d.     | £150        |

(1)

|  | 1969 | 1970 |
|--|------|------|
| (a) Fixed bath or shower               | 50   | 27   |
| (b) Wash hand basin                    | 51   | 30   |
| (c) Hot water supply (to any fittings) | 51   | 34   |
| (d) Water closets                      | 51   | 27   |
| (e) Food storage                       | 37   | -    |
| (f) Sinks                              | 1    | 8    |

|   | 1969 | 1970 |
|---|------|------|
| Higher limit grants<br>(included in (1) overleaf                    |      |      |
| Number of dwellings   | 38   | 14   |
| Additional Grant aided work   |      |      |
| (1) No. of bathrooms added  | 40   | 14   |
| (2) No. of piped water supplies<br>installed                        | -    | -    |
| (3) No. of septic tank or<br>cesspool drainage systems<br>installed | -    | -    |

|  |                     |   |   |
|--|---------------------|---|---|
| Less than Full Standard<br>(included in (1) overleaf | Number of dwellings | - | - |
|--|---------------------|---|---|

#### Discretionary Grants

|  | Owner/Occupied |      |             |      | Tenanted   |      |             |      |        |      |
|--|----------------|------|-------------|------|------------|------|-------------|------|--------|------|
|  | Conversion     |      | Improvement |      | Conversion |      | Improvement |      | Totals |      |
|  | 1969           | 1970 | 1969        | 1970 | 1969       | 1970 | 1969        | 1970 | 1969   | 1970 |
| 1. Applications received                               | -              | 2    | 2           | 15   | 1          | 3    | 3           | 12   | 6      | 32   |
| 2. Applications approved                               | -              | -    | -           | 18   | 1          | 12   | 1           | 7    | 2      | 37   |
| 3. Applications refused                                | -              | -    | -           | -    | -          | -    | -           | -    | -      | -    |
| 4. Number of dwellings<br>provided after<br>conversion | -              | 2    | -           | -    | -          | 2    | -           | -    | -      | 4    |
| 5. Number of dwellings<br>improved                     | -              | -    | 1           | 3    | -          | -    | -           | 7    | 1      | 10   |

|                               | <u>1969</u> | <u>1970</u> |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| 6. Amount paid in grants      | £481        | £5,650      |
| 7. Average grant per dwelling | £481        | £403        |

Special Grants (Section 16 of the Housing Act 1969) - No applications were received during 1969 or 1970.

General Improvement Areas (Section 28(1) of the Housing Act 1969) - No areas were declared during 1969 or 1970.

Compulsory Improvement of Dwelling (Section 19(3) and 20(1) of the Housing Act 1969) - Two improvement notices were served during 1970 as against none in 1969

## Improvement Grants

A glance at the tables shows a marked upswing in the numbers of applications for grant - 63 standard grants approved against 47 in 1969. The increase in discretionary grant approvals from 2 to 37 is really significant and shows how property owners are taking advantage of the generous grants provided by the Housing Act 1969 and the new power to give grants for essential repairs. Owner/occupiers still preponderate among the applicants and it seems that restricting annual rent increases to not more than  $37\frac{1}{2}\%$  per week over three years is a deterrent to landlords.

There are still about eight hundred houses in the Borough which do not possess all the standard amenities and I hope to see this upswing maintained so that in a very few years we may be able to say that we have no sub-standard houses at all.

## General Improvement Areas

During the year surveys were conducted in order to identify potential improvement areas. We found likely areas at Kettlebrook, Glascote, Two Gates and Belgrave and after inter-departmental consultation decided that Kettlebrook presented the best example of a district where the proper use of the resources available could significantly improve the dwellings and immediate surrounds. In this area three hundred and nine houses were surveyed in minute detail and schedules of repair and improvement were prepared but it seems a long time since we knocked on the first door and so far there is nothing to show for a lot of time, effort and thought.

Environmental improvements present the stumbling block. The cost of worthwhile improvements is very high and it requires a great deal of faith in the idea to convince oneself that the effort is justifiable, but this is an instance of having to put our money on the counter or accept that a sub-standard Tamworth must exist permanently. Kettlebrook is only one of several areas requiring attention and success here will point the way for the others.

## Qualification Certificates

| <u>Improvement Cases</u>  | <u>1969</u> | <u>1970</u> |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| Number of applications for Qualification Certificates under Section 44(2) under consideration | 12          | 13          |
| Number of Certificates of provisional approval issued   | 1           | 8           |
| Number of Qualification Certificates issued under Section 46(3)                               | Nil         | 3           |

## Standard Amenities already provided

|   |     |   |
|---|-----|---|
| Number of applications for Qualification Certificates under Section 44(1) under consideration | 1   | 8 |
| Number of Qualification Certificates issued under Section 45(2)                               | Nil | 7 |

Qualification Certificates are issued by local authorities in order to certify to the Rent Officers that dwellings are fit, in good repair, possess the standard amenities and are eligible for the fixing of a "fair rent". These are three notions of what constitutes a fair rent, the landlords', the tenants' and the Rent Officers', but the Qualification Certificate has proved non-controversial.

There was an increase in the numbers dealt with but not nearly as big as was expected. It seems that people with capital to invest have lost the habit of investing in house property but the new Act can make this a lucrative proposition in many instances.

(b) Clearance of Unfit Houses

Individual Unfit Houses Beyond Repair - Housing Act 1957

|   | <u>1969</u> | <u>1970</u> |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| Undertakings accepted (Section 16)        | 1           | 2           |
| Closing Orders made                       | 3           | 11          |
| Demolition Orders made                    | 3           | 38          |
| Houses demolished after demolition orders | 5           | 5           |
| Number of displaced persons:              |             |             |
| (a) Individuals                           | 36          | 24          |
| (b) Families                              | 14          | 13          |

Clearance Orders Made (Section 44)

|  |    |    |
|--|----|----|
| Houses Demolished following clearance Orders | 10 | 28 |
| Number of persons displaced:                 |    |    |
| (a) Individuals                              | 85 | 49 |
| (b) Families                                 | 40 | 17 |

We are really getting towards the end of the clearance programme and the emphasis increasingly swings from demolition to renovation. The remaining unfit dwellings present particular problems - increasingly it is no longer a clear-cut decision that the houses must come down, there being no alternative. Also, the remaining houses tend to have been pushed to the back of the programme because they present special difficulties; they may contain a fair proportion of owner/occupiers who do not want to move, or they may be affected by a road-widening scheme in which case any one of three public bodies will be doing its best to make sure that the other two are going to pay any compensation necessary.

(c) New House Construction and Council House Lettings

House Lettings

The Housing Manager has provided the following statistics:

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Waiting List at 1st January 1970                      | 511 |
| Applications received during the year                 | 347 |
| Number of tenancies allocated                         | 177 |
| Waiting List at 31st December 1970                    | 706 |
| Number re-housed under Birmingham Overspill Agreement | 512 |

### New Buildings

Houses constructed during 1970:

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| Private         | 211 |
| Local Authority | 654 |

## 3. AIR POLLUTION

### (a) Industrial Pollution

Public discontent with pollution in Wilnecote and Dosthill rose to a new high level resulting in public meetings and the formation of a residents action group. The people affected do not accept that everything possible has been done to remove the affliction and they are not without justification.

The Borough Council authorised the expenditure of up to £500 on equipment for measuring pollution. This was duly spent and gauges are in position at strategic points and some interesting points have emerged although these statistics are not relevant to 1970. At least we have established that there are no harmful emissions of hydrogen fluoride so far, although hydrochloric acid has been showered on part of the district on at least two occasions.

Apart from the brickworks and aluminium smelters in Wilnecote and Dosthill there is no major source of industrial pollution in the borough, although various complaints about smoke, grit, and acid smuts are received occasionally from residents of houses in the vicinity of other factories. These can invariably be rectified by informal action.

### (b) Domestic Pollution

I have implied the existence of two Tamworths earlier in this report in relation to housing standards. It is no less evident that a similar differentiation can be made according to the amount of smoke produced from the chimneys of private dwellings. The new smoke-controlled parts of the borough are clean and smart and most of the remainder is grubby chiefly because of domestic smoke. It has been asked whether Tamworth can afford smoke control areas, and the answer must be that it cannot afford to accept the present state of affairs and claim to be a progressive municipality.

Thanks to a mild winter 1970/71 and the delay in implementing Smoke Control Order No. 4 (Gillway/Browns Lane) there was no crisis in the solid smokeless fuel supply system. Fuel costs leapfrog over each other with monotonous regularity; we are told variously that the oil-supplying-states are going to hold the West to ransom; that there will be no more difficulties when the North Sea oilfields are tapped; that natural gas reserves are not as large as originally predicted. An increasing amount of solid smokeless fuel is coming in from the continent.

The high price of coal together with the low efficiency of the open stool bottom grate constitute an expensive and inefficient way of house-heating. The public now realise this and there is a swing to gas and electric heating.

The future of premium solid smokeless fuel does not look so bright; inflated prices have had a detrimental effect on demand. Leading smokeless fuel manufacturers are now having to resort to national advertising campaigns in order to sell their products.

The National Coal Board Housewarmer, which is a closed room heater, capable of giving partial central heating and domestic hot water, has now been generally released for installation by individual householders. This appliance, although burning coal, will do so relatively smokelessly and efficiently. The fuel which is specially selected small coals is cheap and in plentiful supply. It is hoped that the appliance will prove popular, especially to the many people in receipt of a concessionary coal allowance. Two other appliances of a similar type are expected to be marketed in the near future.

It seems to me that the only prudent fuel policy is one of diversification, nationally, locally, and at home. This may be more expensive but my advice to householders is to think twice before bricking up fireplace openings - put gas or oil central heating in by all means but retain the safety net.

#### Smoke Control Programme - 31st December 1970

Despite a shortage of smokeless fuels during the winter of 1969/70 the smoke control programme is making headway. The No. 5 order was made on the 15th September 1970 and submitted for confirmation. This order covered an area of mainly open land at Glascote Heath and was made in readiness for the new factory estate and housing development.

The importance of creating smoke control areas prior to development has proved its worth in the first two orders made. Where only 170 dwellings existed there are now 2,667 and it is expected that this total will eventually exceed 5,000.

| Order No. | District                 | No. of Houses | No. of other buildings | Made     | Dates Confirmed | Operative |
|-----------|--------------------------|---------------|------------------------|----------|-----------------|-----------|
| 1         | Coton Lane               | 517           | 5                      | 15. 8.67 | 22. 1.68        | 1.10.68   |
| 2         | Belgrave                 | 2150          | 11                     | 14.11.67 | 16. 9.68        | 1. 9.69   |
| 3         | Leyfields/<br>Ashby Road | 1700          | 24                     | 17.12.68 | 27. 2.69        | 1.10.69   |
| 4         | Wigginton Road           | 1229          | 22                     | 28.10.69 | 21. 5.70        | 1.10.72   |
| 5         | Glascote Heath           | 145           | 13                     | 15. 9.70 | -               | 1.10.71   |

#### 4. OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

In my report for 1969 I expressed the hope that we might eventually achieve annual inspection of all registered premises. In 1970 three hundred and thirty one premises received three hundred and twenty general inspections so we very nearly achieved that aim. The increase in registrations lay partly in the construction of new premises and partly in detection of older premises which had escaped the net in previous years.

##### Contraventions of the Act

623 contraventions were detected. The commonest was failure to display an Abstract of the Act, which is required so that employees may be aware of their rights. Some older shops and offices in the town centre were in very poor condition but many new premises also contravened. The modern practice of building shops and offices as shells before it is known what type of business is going in frequently causes last-minute alterations in design and sometimes we have had to ask for alterations after premises have been put in use. However, improved liaison with the Borough Engineer at the time when plans are deposited has minimised the chance of this happening.

There were fifteen cases of inadequate guards to machinery and it was not always easy to find a manufacturer who mass-produces a suitable guard for a given machine. Some have to be purpose-built.

##### Accidents

Twelve accidents were notified during the year. It is known that not all accidents involving more than three days absence from work were reported to the Public Health Department. We came across one instance where the management of a company stated that they had sent the notification to the Department of Employment and Productivity but no record of this could be found.

During a routine inspection of a wholesale warehouse it was found that three notifiable accidents had not been reported. The company secretary claimed that one had been reported but admitted liability for the other two contraventions. Because of the high standard of the premises and because none of the accidents was attributable to negligence on the part of the company no further action was taken other than a warning that similar contraventions would lead to report for prosecution.

Most of the accidents were caused by falls or knocks and strains while handling goods but three accidents were caused by fork-lift trucks at a warehouse. Carelessness by operatives seemed to be the principal factor. A 16 year-old commis chef scalded two fingers badly enough to need hospital treatment. Two weeks later, still wearing a dressing from the first injury, he cut one of the scalded fingers while preparing a lettuce. Sepsis occurred and the finger was amputated.

##### Hoists and Lifts Regulations 1968

These presented no undue trouble. There are comparatively few registered premises with more than two storeys. One grocer has a platform lift for conveying goods between first and ground floors; as his shop is comparatively new we had difficulty in persuading him that anything could be wrong and he seemed particularly reluctant to go to the trouble of obtaining the certificate of a competent person as to safety.

After report to the Health and Safety Committee he took the necessary measures.

(a) Registrations and General Inspections

| Class of Premises                                | Number of premises registered during the year | Number of registered premises at end of year | Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year |
|--|---|--|--|
| Offices  | 18  | 75   | 90   |
| Retail Shops                                     | 41  | 216  | 201  |
| Wholesale shops, warehouses                      | 1   | 9  | 9  |
| Catering establishments open to public, canteens | 7   | 31   | 20   |
| Fuel storage depots                              | -   | -  | -  |
| TOTALS   | 67  | 331  | 320  |

Total number of visits of all kinds by inspectors to registered premises under the Act 793

(b) Analysis of Contraventions

| Type of Contravention                          | Total | Complied |
|--|-------|----------|
| Abstract of Act not displayed                  | 142   | 89       |
| No first aid kit                               | 139   | 108      |
| No thermometer                                 | 98    | 62       |
| Premises not registered                        | 56    | 50       |
| No towels, soap, etc. at wash hand basin       | 4     | 2        |
| Inadequate ventilation to workroom             | 10    | 6        |
| Premises require cleaning and/or decoration    | 19    | 10       |
| Wash hand basin with hot and cold not provided | 6     | -        |
| No hot water to wash hand basin                | 31    | 17       |
| No artificial lighting to W.C. compartment     | 12    | 10       |
| No intervening ventilated space                | 5     | 3        |
| Defective floor covering                       | 14    | 7        |
| W.C. compartment requires cleaning/decorating  | 19    | 7        |
| W.C. compartment requires repair               | 11    | 4        |
| Stairs require repair/decoration               | 20    | 4        |
| Inadequate heating                             | 4     | -        |

(Continued)

| Type of Contravention                                | Total | Complied |
|--|-------|----------|
| Handrail to stairs defective/missing                 | 22    | 13       |
| No ventilation to W.C.                               | 7     | 3        |
| Inadequate lighting                                  | 19    | 9        |
| Circular saw not guarded                             | 1     | -        |
| Grindstone not guarded                               | 1     | 1        |
| Lift shaft not guarded                               | 1     | 1        |
| Electric fire not guarded                            | 1     | 1        |
| Electric connector heater broken                     | 1     | 1        |
| Electric fan broken                                  | 1     | 1        |
| Wallpaper trimming machine not guarded               | 1     | 1        |
| No seating facilities                                | 1     | 1        |
| Refrigerator pump and electricity supply not guarded | 1     | 1        |
| W.C. compartment obstructed                          | 1     | 1        |
| Gravity feed slicers not guarded                     | 6     | 4        |
| Potato chipper not guarded                           | 2     | 1        |
| Opening in floor not guarded                         | 1     | -        |
| No safe working load on lift                         | 1     | -        |
| Accumulation of refuse                               | 1     | -        |
| No clothing accommodation                            | 1     | 1        |
| No facilities for meals                              | 1     | 1        |
| No guard to conveyor                                 | 1     | 1        |
| No guard to refrigerator motor                       | 1     | 1        |
| Wash hand basin requires cleaning                    | 1     | -        |
|  | 664   | 422      |

(c) Exemptions

|                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| No. of applications received | Nil |
| No. of applications granted: | Nil |
| (i) Space                    | -   |
| (ii) Temperature             | -   |
| (iii) Sanitary Conveniences  | -   |
| (iv) Running water           | -   |

(d) Prosecutions

Number of prosecutions Nil

Number of convictions Nil

(e) Reported Accidents

| Workplace  | Number Fatal | Reported Non-fatal | Total Number Investigated | Action Recommended |                 |
|--|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
|  |              |                    |                           | Formal Warning     | Informal Advice |
| Offices  | -            | 1                  | 1                         | -                  | 1               |
| Retail Shops                                     | -            | 5                  | 5                         | -                  | 5               |
| Wholesale shops/warehouses                       | -            | 4                  | 4                         | -                  | 4               |
| Catering establishments open to public, canteens | -            | 2                  | 2                         | -                  | 2               |
| Fuel storage depots                              | -            | -                  | -                         | -                  | -               |
| TOTALS   | -            | 12                 | 12                        | -                  | 12              |

(f) Analysis of Reported Accidents

|  | Offices | Retail Shops | Wholesale warehouses | Establishments open to public, canteens | Fuel Storage Depots |
|--|---------|--------------|----------------------|---|---------------------|
| Machinery  | -       | -            | 2                    | -                                       | -                   |
| Transport  | -       | -            | 1                    | -                                       | -                   |
| Falls of persons                                 | 1       | 1            | -                    | 1                                       | -                   |
| Stepping on or striking against object or person | -       | -            | -                    | -                                       | -                   |
| Handling goods                                   | -       | 3            | 1                    | -                                       | -                   |
| Struck by falling object                         | -       | -            | -                    | -                                       | -                   |
| Fires and explosions                             | -       | -            | -                    | -                                       | -                   |
| Electricity                                      | -       | -            | -                    | -                                       | -                   |
| Use of hand tools                                | -       | 1            | -                    | 1                                       | -                   |
| Not otherwise specified                          | -       | -            | -                    | -                                       | -                   |

## 5. CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT 1960

We have three registered sites containing a total of 119 caravans. A good standard was maintained by the owners.

## 6. FACTORIES ACT

### (a) Outworkers

| Nature of Work              | Section 133  |   |   | Section 134                                      |                |              |
|-----------------------------|--|---|---|--|----------------|--------------|
|                             | No. of Outworkers in August list required by Section 133(1)(c) | No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council | No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists | No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises | Notices served | Prosecutions |
| Wearing apparel making etc. | 34   | -   | -   | -  | -              | -            |

### (b) Work Done

| Premises   | Number on Register | Number of   |                 |                      |
|--|--------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|
|  |                    | Inspections | Written Notices | Occupiers prosecuted |
| (i) Factories were Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities                       | -                  | -           | -               | -                    |
| (ii) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority                       | 167                | 207         | 9               | -                    |
| (iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises) | 10                 | 10          | -               | -                    |
| TOTAL  | 177                | 217         | 9               | -                    |

### Cases in which defects were found

#### Sanitary Conveniences (Section 7)

51 cases of unsuitable or defective sanitary conveniences were found and 41 were remedied by the year end.

## 7. NOISE ABATEMENT

Fourteen complaints were received during the year. Details as shown in table.

|                                       | Indus-<br>trial | Commercial | Domestic | Total |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|------------|----------|-------|
| No. of nuisances confirmed            | 4               | 4          | 6        | 14    |
| No. of nuisances remedied informally  | 3               | 3          | 6        | 12    |
| No. of nuisance orders under Sec. 1   | -               | -          | -        | -     |
| No. of abatement notices under Sec. 1 | -               | -          | -        | -     |

## 8. PEST CONTROL

The incidence of bed bugs and fleas is one way of assessing the standard of living of a community. During 1970 the Department dealt with four complaints of bed bugs and one of these was caused by the importation of an infested mattress from a boarding house in Birmingham. There were eight complaints of flea infestations, six of these caused by dog fleas.

Other insect pests dealt with included house flies, blow flies, cluster flies, vinegar flies, ants and wasps. Ants were particularly troublesome and it was not possible to treat all complaints received. A contract was agreed with the National Coal Board for the extermination of extensive infestations of cockroaches in their houses at Dosthill and for the first time in several years these houses are free from infestation. An infested bakehouse was also treated.

Complaints were received about a severe and prolonged infestation of crickets at the Council's former tip at Wilnecote. This proved difficult to eradicate because the crickets clung tenaciously to small pockets of uncovered domestic refuse.

162 complaints about rats were received, a slight increase related no doubt to town expansion. A contract service is provided for business concerns whereby their premises are disinfested for a very reasonable charge and this is increasingly popular. Regular inspections are also made of building sites, canteens, sewage works and the Council tip. The public sewers in the town centre, Dosthill, Hockley and Wilnecote were treated. We have a contract with the Inland Waterway executive for disinfesting the canal banks which are tackled from an inflatable rubber boat.

There seems to be an increase in the incidence of warfarin-resistant mice and we may now be getting complaints from householders who had previously bought warfarin from a chemist. Fortunately, alpha-chloralose is very effective although care has to be exercised in its use.

The town-centre pigeon problem has been alleviated if not entirely eliminated. The pigeons have lost their principal harbourage, a large shop which was declared unsafe and had to be demolished.

Constant attention to trapping and use of repellants should now ensure that the town centre streets never resume their earlier foul condition.

#### Complaints Received

|         |     |
|---------|-----|
| Rats    | 162 |
| Mice    | 44  |
| Pigeons | 6   |
| Insects | 142 |
|         | —   |
|         | 354 |
|         | ==  |

### 9. MUNICIPAL OPEN-AIR BATHS

| <u>Chemical Samples</u> | <u>Satisfactory</u> | <u>Unsatisfactory</u> |
|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 14                      | 10                  | 4                     |

#### Bacteriological Samples

14 samples were taken. The recommendations of the Public Health Laboratory Service are that the colony count should not exceed 10 in 75% of the samples and the remainder should not exceed 100. Our samples showed these proportions:-

| <u>Under 10 colonies per ml.</u> | <u>Over 10 colonies per ml.</u> | <u>Over 100 colonies per ml.</u> |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 62%                              | 15%                             | 23%                              |

Once more, unsatisfactory sampling figures bear out what is already known: the filtration plant is inadequate and must be replaced. Alternatively the bathing load should be drastically reduced. I hope we do not have to wait for an outbreak of water-borne disease before something is done.

### 10. INSPECTIONS

The following table shows the number of visits and inspections made to various classes of premises:-

| <u>Visits and Inspections</u>       | <u>Number</u> |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Piggeries, etc.                     | 43            |
| Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection | 977           |
| Food Premises                       | 1170          |
| Food Complaints                     | 127           |
| Food Condemnations                  | 139           |
| Sampling                            | 24            |

(Continued)

| <u>Visits and Inspections</u>       | <u>Number</u> |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Market Stalls                       | 373           |
| Mobile Vendors                      | 220           |
| Housing                             | 952           |
| Hairdressers                        | 39            |
| Improvement Grants                  | 1490          |
| Factories                           | 207           |
| Smoke Control Areas                 | 1719          |
| Smoke Control (Industrial)          | 164           |
| Nuisances                           | 378           |
| Drainage                            | 350           |
| Infectious Diseases                 | 59            |
| Water Supply                        | 70            |
| Refuse Accumulations                | 159           |
| Pest Control                        | 1164          |
| Swimming Pool                       | 13            |
| Noise Abatement                     | 175           |
| Shops Act                           | 123           |
| Caravan Sites                       | 77            |
| Offices, Shops and Railway Premises | 123           |
| Miscellaneous                       | 53            |
|                                     | <u>10388</u>  |

| <u>Complaints</u>              |            |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Unsound Food                   | 55         |
| Requests to inspect food       | 33         |
| Housing defects                | 41         |
| Caravans                       | 3          |
| Accumulations of refuse        | 9          |
| Nuisances from animals         | 10         |
| Rat and mice infested premises | 206        |
| Insect Infestations            | 142        |
| Dirty premises (fumigations)   | 12         |
| Smoke emission                 | 24         |
| Drainage                       | 46         |
| Noise Nuisances                | 14         |
| Miscellaneous                  | 66         |
| Pigeons                        | <u>6</u>   |
|                                | <u>667</u> |

## 11. STAFF

1970 was an unsettled year. One inspector came, two went, and another spent most of the year looking for another position. We have two technical assistants who specialise in their own fields and the temptation is strong at times to appoint more in place of qualified public health inspectors, but the dangers of dilution are many and there is no substitute for an experienced public health inspector. Constant advertising failed to bring the inspectoral staff to full strength. The current uncertainty about future prospects must affect recruitment, in particular the proposals to transfer some environmental health functions to the new county authorities. Some of the original proposals in the Government White Paper were so hare-brained as not to be taken seriously but there are bound to be changes. I am not sure that they will be to the advantage of the townspeople of Tamworth.

My thanks go to those members of the staff who formed the backbone of the department and contributed to the progress made.





